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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Roslyn Lauren KHAN-CUMMINGS (Trinidad and Tobago)

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I. QUESTION OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands en bloc at its 696th to 702nd meetings, from 26 June to 8 July 1996.

2. During its consideration of these items, the Subcommittee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat on those Territories (A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1, 2043, 2044 and Add.1, 2045, 2047 and Add.1, 2050-2053, 2054 and Add.1, 2055 and 2056).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a review of the political, economic and social conditions in each of the Territories in the light of the information contained in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat. The Subcommittee noted that the information contained in the working papers was not always up to date and that the Secretariat relied in some instances on published sources. The Subcommittee requested the administering Powers to cooperate with the Secretariat in furnishing information on the Territories.

4. In the course of its review, the Subcommittee considered all aspects of the issues relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and focused attention on the following:

(a) Progress or lack of progress in ascertaining the wishes of the population of the Territories regarding their future status;

(b) The position of the territorial Governments and political parties and constitutional developments on the question of the future status of the Territories;

(c) The general socio-economic developments and specific problems faced by some Territories in respect of environment, drug-trafficking, etc.;

(d) The dispatch of visiting missions and participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee so that the Committee can obtain first-hand information on the wishes of the population.

5. The Subcommittee noted that in some cases there was no up-to-date information to ascertain the wishes of the population regarding their future status. It remains convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections, and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people. The outcome of such exercises would help the

Subcommittee in reviewing the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned. The Subcommittee was aware that some of the Territories were not seeking independence but sought other options of self-determination. The Subcommittee also noted that some Territories attached priority to socio-economic development before making a choice as to their future status.

6. The Subcommittee attached importance to a review of the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the fact that the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000 is well past its mid-point.

7. In view of Tokelau's own decision-making agenda and related changes to the legislative framework for Tokelau, the Chairman of the Special Committee was requested by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations to allow the Administrator of Tokelau and the Failpule of Tokelau to appear before the Special Committee to allow it to hear, at first hand, how decisions on Tokelau's future status are being made. Accordingly, the Subcommittee recommended that this year the draft resolution on specific conditions prevailing in Tokelau be considered and adopted by the Special Committee.

8. The Subcommittee reiterated its view that the cooperation of all administering Powers was essential for the discharge of its mandate and resolved that it should seek the cooperation of all administering Powers through demonstration of a practical, flexible and innovative approach. The Subcommittee was conscious of the changes in the international situation and the consequent need to adapt its approach in tune with the changed circumstances. The Subcommittee expressed its readiness to work with the administering Powers in a spirit of constructive cooperation to achieve the goals of the United Nations in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Subcommittee hoped that the administering Powers would take note of this new approach and come forward with cooperation.

B. Draft general resolution

9. Having considered the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the Subcommittee has decided to recommend the following draft resolution for action by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter "the Territories",

Having examined the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that even three and a half decades after the adoption of the Declaration there still remains a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and welcoming the recent constitutional developments in Tokelau,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections, and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without an active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other Assembly resolutions,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Mindful also that the holding of the seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately and at United Nations Headquarters or any other venue, as appropriate, provides an effective means for the Special Committee to discharge its mandate and promote the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. Approves the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands;

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the legitimate political status options open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

4. Requests the administering Powers, having ascertained the views of the peoples of the Territories, regularly to report to the Secretary-General on the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

5. Stresses the need to seek further ways and means to enhance the Special Committee's understanding of the conditions and wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

6. Requests the administering Powers and the representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee by inviting the United Nations visiting missions at appropriate times to monitor the status of the Territories;

7. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. Requests the administering Powers in consultation with the peoples of the Territories to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

9. Calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

10. Stresses that the achievement of the declared goal of eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned, in particular the administering Powers;

11. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. Decides to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories in order to assist the peoples of the Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

C. Draft resolutions on specific conditions prevailing in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

1. American Samoa

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

Noting the non-participation of the representatives of the people of American Samoa in the last two regional seminars,

Noting also that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base, and recent natural disasters,

Noting further that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements, especially the provision of safe drinking water to all villages in American Samoa,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory,

including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthening other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory.

2. Anguilla

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1984,

Noting also that information considered by the Subcommittee was made available from published sources,

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power and all countries, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development.

3. Bermuda

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting with concern the report in the Royal Gazette of 23 November 1995 that approximately 19 per cent of Bermuda's households live in a state of poverty and continue to receive some form of assistance from the Government,

Noting also the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister for the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue its programmes of socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. Also requests the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory.

4. British Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting further the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

5. Cayman Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1977,

Noting also that information considered by the Subcommittee was made available from published sources,

Noting the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate, and virtually no unemployment,

Noting also the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

Noting further the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the

territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level.

6. Guam

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the people of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for an increased measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned pending the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people of Guam for the Territory, as endorsed by the people of Guam in the draft Guam Commonwealth Act, and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

5. Requests the administering Power to implement programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people;

6. Also requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities.

7. Montserrat

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1982,

Noting also that information considered by the Subcommittee was made available from published sources,

Noting the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island,

Noting also the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both private and public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting further the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption.

8. Pitcairn

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory.

9. St. Helena

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Taking into account the unique character of the Territory, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Noting the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

1. Requests the administering Power to conduct the constitutional review in the Territory, taking into account the wishes of its population;

2. Also requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. Further requests the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory.

10. Turks and Caicos Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the recent petition by the political leaders of the Territory addressed to the administering Power to recall the Governor and the decision by the administering Power to reject that petition,

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory to the Pacific Regional Seminar held at Port Moresby in June 1996,

Taking note of the request by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory addressed to the Special Committee to visit the Territory and ascertain the wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with regard to preparing themselves for self-government,

Noting also the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population to the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

Noting further the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Invites the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking.

11. United States Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory on 11 October 1993, and that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status

arrangements with the United States of America, and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community,

Noting the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

Noting also that the question of Water Island is still under discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power,

Noting further the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Noting with satisfaction that the Territory joined the International Drug Enforcement Conference as a full member in 1995, which would strengthen its capability to combat illegal drug trafficking,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. Welcomes the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

II. QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

10. In accordance with its programme of work for 1996, adopted at its 696th meeting, on 24 June 1996, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 700th to 702nd meetings, on 3 and 8 July 1996.

11. During its consideration of the question of dissemination of information on decolonization, the Subcommittee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

B. Statement by the representative of the Department of Public Information

12. In his statement, the representative of the Department of Public Information said that the Department's report covered the activities undertaken by the Department during the period from May 1995 to April 1996. The Department's multimedia activities included a wide range of issues pertaining to decolonization. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/40 on dissemination of information was highlighted by the Department's news programmes for broadcasting organizations worldwide and received emphasis in its press releases in English and French.

13. As part of its regular coverage of United Nations activities, the Department issued a total of 48 press releases in English and French on issues relating to decolonization. During 1995, a wide range of information covering all aspects of decolonization was processed by the staff of the United Nations Yearbook for volume 48, covering the events of 1994, as well as for volume 43, a backlog edition covering events in 1989; those volumes were being published in 1996 and 1997, respectively. In the special fiftieth anniversary commemorative edition, published in August 1995, a major section entitled "Emerging nations" covered issues relating to the end of the International Trusteeship system, the status of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the thirtieth anniversary of the 1960 Declaration, and the dismantling of the colonial system, including case studies on Algeria, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. The Department also continued to distribute the poster on decolonization, published in 1994 in English, French and Spanish, entitled "Complete Decolonization by the Year 2000 - Freedom to Choose."

14. The Department produced 48 radio programmes which covered a wide range of activities related to decolonization. Related activities within the United Nations system were also televised and disseminated through feeds and dubs made available to networks and other television stations and through packages of television news and video highlights provided to international news syndicators. The Department's Audio/Visual Library continued to make tapes and cassettes available to correspondents, delegates, United Nations radio producers and outside producers on decolonization issues.

15. The worldwide network of 68 United Nations information centres and services continued to distribute the Department's information materials relating to decolonization, through the local media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. The same materials also formed part of United Nations Information Centres reference library collections. Whenever appropriate, the Centres incorporated such information in their briefings on the work of the Organization as well as in their newsletters. The United Nations Information Centre at Port-of-Spain assisted the Special Committee during the Caribbean Regional Seminar on decolonization held from 3 to 5 July 1995. Audio material recorded during the Seminar, including special interviews, was sent to Headquarters for production of radio programmes for global distribution.

C. Statement by the representative of the Department of Political Affairs

16. In his statement before the Subcommittee, the representative of the Department of Political Affairs reviewed the Department's activities in 1995 in the area of dissemination of information on decolonization. He drew the attention of the Subcommittee members to the provisions of the most recent General Assembly resolution on dissemination of information on decolonization (resolution 50/40) with regard to the functions of Department of Political Affairs.

17. In the light of the provisions of that resolution, the work of the Department in the dissemination of information was focused on three major areas: (a) oral dissemination of information through personal contacts of the Department's officers with leading experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories, representatives from academia and media organizations; (b) the systematic distribution of documents on decolonization issues, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, particularly in connection with regional seminars and events in other forums, at United Nations Headquarters and elsewhere; and (c) various contributions prepared by the Department of Political Affairs for recurrent or occasional United Nations publications. All these activities were closely coordinated with the relevant departments and services of the United Nations Secretariat, first and foremost with the Department's longstanding partner, the Department of Public Information.

18. One area in which the contribution of the Department of Political Affairs was considered important was, as in the previous years, the political advice and up-to-date information provided by the Department to the Department of Public Information in the preparation of published materials. Continuing its past practice, the Department cooperated with the Department of Public Information in the preparation of relevant chapters for the 1995 United Nations Yearbook. The questions covered in that contribution included, actions by the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, implementation of the resolutions on decolonization by the specialized agencies, foreign economic and other interests in the Territories, scholarship programmes and training for the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other decolonization issues. In this context the representative of the Department of Political Affairs mentioned the updating of information that the Department undertook for various organizations' Yearbooks, including those distributed through electronic media. He also said that desk officers of the Department responsible for decolonization continued to provide an ongoing consultation for the United Nations tour guides on the decolonization questions for the general public visiting Headquarters.

19. The Department availed itself of the opportunity provided by the seminars organized by the Special Committee away from Headquarters to disseminate information on decolonization. The representative of the Department stated that, given the diminished human resources of the Department of Political Affairs involved in servicing decolonization bodies and providing working documents on decolonization issues to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, it was becoming more and more difficult to attend to various requests from academia, the general public and individuals for specific information on decolonization. The regional seminars provided a unique opportunity to

accomplish several major tasks at one time. It helped the Department to collect up-to-date information on the political and constitutional developments in the Territories through discussions with representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as experts and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization; the Department achieved a great deal by directly disseminating in bulk various working documents of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as other material published by the Department of Public Information at the venue of the seminar. The recent Pacific Regional Seminar had offered an excellent opportunity for dissemination of information. The direct contact and exchange of information with the administrator of Tokelau, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar and the Deputy Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as representatives from New Caledonia, East Timor and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and other participants, was useful in rendering the services of the Department on the work of the Special Committee.

20. The Department of Political Affairs also attached great importance to the distribution of information on decolonization, and took particular care to reply to individual requests for information on the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, although those requests seemed to have diminished in recent years. The Department maintained regular and fruitful contacts with regional and intergovernmental organizations, both in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, especially CARICOM, the Eastern Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the South Pacific Forum. The valuable input from those organizations on the issues facing small island Non-Self-Governing Territories enabled the Department to undertake more thorough analysis of the problems faced by those Territories and to reflect them adequately in the working papers. The representative of the Department said that that source was becoming even more important in the absence of up-to-date information on the Territories from some of the administering Powers.

21. The representative of the Department assured the Subcommittee that the Department would make every effort to fulfil the mandate within the limits of its diminished resources and the financial constraints facing the Organization. He concluded by saying that the Department of Political Affairs would take into consideration the guidelines and recommendations the Subcommittee would make at the conclusion of its current session.

D. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (27-31 May 1996)

22. In accordance with the programme of work for 1996 adopted by the Special Committee at its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance was to consider the question of the Week of Solidarity at its meetings in May 1996. Since the Pacific Regional Seminar was held from 12 to 14 June 1996, the meetings of the Subcommittee scheduled for May had to be moved to a later date. Since the dates for the Week of Solidarity were in close proximity to the Pacific Regional Seminar, the Chairman found it most appropriate to make the statement on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity at the Seminar on 14 June 1996. The statement was as follows:

"Since 1972, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), the Governments and peoples of the world have been observing annually a Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories. This celebration is in full accord with the purposes and tenets embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and is in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

"Today, when our Organization takes a closer look at its achievements, its success in the field of decolonization is universally recognized. Hundreds of millions gained their freedom and independence in the surge of decolonization following the creation of the United Nations. Their membership in the United Nations as sovereign States strengthened the fundamental basis of the international community.

"We remember the history of the struggles against colonialism and pay tribute to all those who took part in them. We remain mindful of the sacrifices that made it possible for hundreds of millions of peoples to achieve self-determination and independence.

"However important the success in the field of decolonization, the task is still unfinished in that area and requires further concerted and determined action on the part of all those involved. There are still peoples who have not been able to exercise their right to self-determination. These are mostly peoples of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories located mainly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. They are confronted, inter alia, by problems of their small size, low population, geographic remoteness, limited natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters. Their situations require new and innovative solutions geared towards the implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism launched by the General Assembly in 1988.

"Convinced as we are that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, we once again reiterate the legitimacy of all options of self-determination consistent with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) as long as it is ascertained that they are the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. We should continue to exercise flexibility and realism in our endeavours to complete the process of decolonization. The wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be ignored when examining once again the options of self-determination available to them.

"In that connection, we further appeal for the strengthened and continued support of the administering Powers, whose cooperation with the Special Committee is essential for the progress of the Territories towards self-determination. We count on the support of the specialized agencies, which should continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in enhancing their standard of living and promoting their self-sufficiency. We count on regional and international organizations, which should explore new avenues to provide the Non-Self-Governing Territories with legal and political opportunities for participating in programmes that relate to

their environment and livelihood. We count on support for our efforts from all Member States and non-governmental organizations.

"We hope and believe that our combined, unrelenting efforts will ensure the fulfilment of the promise for freedom, lasting peace, sustained growth and sustainable development for all the peoples of our planet in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

E. Draft resolution on dissemination of information on decolonization

23. Having concluded its examination of the item, the Subcommittee decided to recommend the following draft resolution for action by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee,

Having examined questions relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/40 of 6 December 1995,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. Approves the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs;

2. Considers it important to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. Requests the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give

publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issues of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. Having carefully examined the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the question of dissemination of information on decolonization, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus the texts of the preceding draft resolutions, and conclusions and recommendations contained therein, at its 702nd meeting, on 8 July 1996, for action by the Special Committee.

25. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee adopted the present report.

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15 July 1996
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela: draft resolution

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987 and A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. Reiterates that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. Takes note of the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina on the occasion of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly;

3. Regrets that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that includes all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on the question has not yet started;

4. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. Reiterates its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. Decides to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

The Special Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/32 of 6 December 1995, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connection, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION

Draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman

1. The Special Committee, having considered the item entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration" and recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the Special Committee urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The Special Committee reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Committee once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

4. The Special Committee reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The Special Committee deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The Special Committee takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The Special Committee decides, subject to any directives that the General Assembly may give in this connection at its fifty-first session, to continue to consider the item at its next session.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 1/

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and obstructs efforts aimed at

1/ See A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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the elimination of colonialism is a direct violation of the rights of the inhabitants and of the principles of the Charter and all relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory and bearing in mind the need to promote economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the respective economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their rights to self-determination,

Concerned about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which exploit the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and deprive them of their rights to control the wealth of their countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories, as well as their right to dispose of those resources in their best interests;

2. Affirms the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. Reiterates that any administering Power that deprives the colonial peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the exercise of their legitimate rights over their natural resources, or subordinates the rights and interest of those peoples to foreign economic and financial interests, violates the solemn obligations it has assumed under the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms its concern about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continue to exploit the natural resources that are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and

Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, thus depriving them of their right to control the resources of their Territories and impeding the realization by those peoples of their legitimate aspirations for self-determination and independence;

5. Reiterates its deep concern about those activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories that are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the efforts to eliminate colonialism;

6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories;

7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic interests, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. Invites all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. Urges the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests that impede the implementation of the Declaration;

12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the full implementation of the Declaration;

13. Decides to follow the situation in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories, in order to facilitate and accelerate the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their right to self-determination and independence;

14. Decides to keep the item under continuous review.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its 1442nd meeting, on 10 July 1995, the Special Committee adopted a resolution concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. 1/ The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The Special Committee,

"...

"1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

"2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

"3. Requests the administering Powers to consider the new approaches in the work of the Special Committee and calls on them to cooperate with the Committee in its efforts;

"4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate."

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/...

2. An account of the consultations held by the Chairman in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution is set out below.

3. The Chairman held extensive consultations with representatives of the administering Powers on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to him by the Special Committee. In drawing their attention to the resolution quoted above, as well as to the related resolutions of the General Assembly, the Chairman informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing first-hand information on those Territories. The Chairman once again appealed to the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations in the sending of such missions. It was the understanding of the Special Committee, from an exchange of views that took place at its regional seminars held in 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996, 2/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions. The Chairman expressed the hope that, if such requests were made, the administering Powers concerned would cooperate and facilitate the dispatch of such missions to those Territories.

4. The Chairman informed the administering Powers that their full cooperation was essential for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He took the opportunity to express his appreciation for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the four seminars that the Special Committee had organized within the context of the Decade. He brought the attention of the administering Powers to the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar held at Port Moresby, and expressed the hope that they would continue to extend the same cooperation to the Committee.

5. The Chairman recalled with satisfaction that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the Council of Faipule of Tokelau, the Special Committee had dispatched a United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau in July 1994.

6. As in previous years, a number of the administering Powers consulted reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their administration in fulfilment of their obligation under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. The representative of one administering Power stated that his Government's record on decolonization had been good and that its position with regard to the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories under its administration had not changed. Those territorial Governments willing to receive visiting missions, however, should first consult with the administering Power concerned. With regard to the concept of decolonization, he said that the Territories under his Government's administration had democratically elected Governments and it was up to them to decide their future status. So far, none of those Territories had taken any action with regard to their future status.

8. The representatives of two administering Powers stated that they remained open to any suggestions by local Governments in the Territories concerned regarding their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions. The representatives made reference to their respective communications 3/ informing the United Nations that they would stop participating in the work of the Special Committee and indicated that they did not foresee a change of policy in that regard. However, they reiterated the commitment of their Governments to fulfil their obligations concerning transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter.

9. The representative of one administering Power stated that it was difficult for his Government to facilitate the access of a visiting mission to the Territory concerned. He expressed the hope that the Secretary-General of the United Nations would succeed in his ongoing efforts to bring the parties concerned together and make possible the dispatch of a visiting mission to the Territory in the near future.

10. The representative of New Zealand reiterated the readiness of his Government to continue, in accordance with established practice and procedure, to provide the Committee with all relevant information on Tokelau and to participate in the related work of the Special Committee. The representative expressed the hope that in view of the current constitutional developments in Tokelau it would be possible for the people of the Territory to decide soon on their future status, according to their own time-frame.

11. The Chairman will keep the Special Committee apprised of any further developments in his consultations with the administering Powers concerned on this question.

12. A list of the visiting missions dispatched by the Special Committee or by the General Assembly is contained in the annex to the present report.

Notes

1/ See A/50/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 20. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

2/ Regional seminars held in Vanuatu (A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1) and Barbados (A/AC.109/1043) in 1990; in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114) in 1992 and in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/1159) in 1993; in Trinidad and Tobago (A/AC.109/2030) in 1995 and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/2058) in 1996. The first two were held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the last four were held in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and A/47/86.

Annex

VISITING MISSIONS DISPATCHED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1965	Cook Islands (elections supervision)
1966	Equatorial Guinea
1967	Aden
1968	Equatorial Guinea (referendum/elections supervision)
1971	Papua New Guinea (jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1972	Niue Papua New Guinea (elections observation - jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1974	Niue (referendum observation) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Gilbert and Ellice Islands (referendum observation)
1975	Cape Verde Montserrat Spanish Sahara
1976	British Virgin Islands Tokelau
1977	French Somaliland (referendum/elections observation) Cayman Islands United States Virgin Islands
1979	Guam New Hebrides
1980	Turks and Caicos Islands (April) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Turks and Caicos Islands (October/November) (elections observation)
1981	Tokelau American Samoa
1982	Montserrat
1984	Cocos (Keeling) Islands (act of self-determination) Anguilla
1986	Tokelau
1989	Namibia (elections observation)
1994	Tokelau

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1849
18 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question, 1/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

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1/ A/AC.109/L.1848.

96-18059 (E) 190796 200796

Noting with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994, 2/

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Requests the administering Powers to consider the new approaches in the work of the Special Committee and calls on them to cooperate with the Committee in its efforts;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

2/ A/AC.109/2009.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1850
18 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA

Fiji and Papua New Guinea: draft resolution

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

96-18023 (E) 190796

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords 1/ through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. Also welcomes the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Acknowledges the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Notes the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zoneco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and provincial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

9. Decides, subject to any directives which the General Assembly may give at its fifty-first session, to continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

1/ See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.